



18TH EHEALTH NETWORK, 12-13 NOVEMBER 2020, BRUSSELS BELGIUM

COVER NOTE

8.1 Patient Summary guidelines evolution - subgroup on Semantics

1. Issue at stake

The eHealth Network guidelines on “*Patient Summary for unscheduled care*” are one fine example on how the eHealth Network interoperability efforts shape the way how health data exchange takes place around EU. This is the case of cross-border exchange of patient summaries (in MyHealth@EU, a.k.a. eHDSI) as well as other projects at European or National level that leverage working solutions on top of these guidelines.

The currently available Release 2 of the Patient Summary guidelines dates from 2016 (5 years old) and since then so much has happened (i.e. eHDSI entered routine operations, EEHRxF was created, EN 17269 International Patient Summary standard published). The current guidelines have been used extensively and have been pushed to their limits. In 2019 the eHealth Network acknowledged the need to evolve to guidelines to, among other aspects, should include planned care and support rare diseases.

The eHealth Network mandated the subgroup on Semantics (eHealth Network meeting, spring 2020) to draft a proposal for the next release of the Patient Summary guidelines.

2. Summary

Acting as mandated by the eHealth Network, the subgroup on Semantics drafted a proposal for the next release of the Patient Summary guidelines. The drafting process included liaison with eHDSI Legal Task Force and Semantic Task Force, as well as with the eHealth Network subgroup on Technical Interoperability. The consultation around the draft proposal generated 90+ remarks. Most of the remarks are now reflected in the draft proposal but there are still open questions that would require eHealth Network appreciation.

Highlights from current proposal:

- Almost all articles (in guidelines and support information chapters) have been revised and enhanced;
- The new guidelines open the possibility for a broader use in cross-border and national projects, since they have been cleared from eHDSI specific provisions;
- Expansion to planned care patient summary and better support for rare diseases;
- Introduction of *preferred code systems* according to the lessons learnt in the eHDSI;
- Enlargement and alignment of the clinical dataset towards the CEN International Patient Summary;

- Inclusion of wider “Results” section to enable the communication of observation results which might have impact on future treatments, in particular i) Diagnostic results (e.g. Blood group, Laboratory Observations, Imaging results etc.) and ii) Physical findings (e.g. Vital signs observations);
- And much more...

Open questions:

From the work done some far, some pertinent questions arise that require the eHealth Network reflection and position:

- Does the eHealth Network agree with the inclusion of *preferred code systems*, knowing that this is a significant enabler of interoperability and at the same time it can trigger significant tension due to the current acknowledged fragmentation of used code systems?
- Should we increase the support and visibility of communicable diseases (e.g. SARS-COVID-19) and related information (e.g. specific tests, alerts, quarantine, travel history)?
- Should we treat “Vital signs observations (Blood pressure)” and “Diagnostic tests (blood group)” as one possible information in the *Results* section or should we keep them as standalone sections as a policy priority?

Next Steps

A draft proposal of the Release 3 of the Patient Summary guidelines is now available for eHealth Network appreciation. The remarks from eHealth Network will be considered in the consolidation and maturation process that can also include the consultation of a wider group of stakeholders, in particular health professionals and patients.

A final version is planned to be submitted for eHealth Network adoption at the spring 2021 meeting.

3. Format of procedure in the meeting

For discussion